

Raised Bill No. 5128

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

Submitted by: Jamie Lazaroff, Self-Advocate Coordinator, The Arc Quinebaug Valley, Secretary, The Council on Developmental Services

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, Thank you for raising this important bill. The Arc Quinebaug Valley is a non-profit agency that provides support and advocacy for children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families..

I am writing in **strong support** of Raised Bill 5128 . This bill will ease my concerns that the money saved by moving away from the group home model to a community system is put back into the DDS budget where it came from to then be used to expand DDS Services and help to remove the over 2,000 families on the DDS Waiting List.

I request that the committee also raise the comprehensive "DDS Family's Rights Bill" proposed by Representative Demicco.

Thank you,

Jamie Lazaroff

Self-Advocate Coordinator The Arc Quinebaug Valley

Secretary, Council on Developmental Services

Board of Directors, The Arc CT